REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge this application's foreign priority claim and receipt of a certified copy of this application's foreign priority document.

Applicants further request that the Examiner formally acknowledge consideration of the documents listed with the May 15, 2009 Information Disclosure Statement.

Moreover, Applicants note that Claims 47-53, were pending as of the February 23, 2009 Request for Continued Examination and therefore should have been treated in the Official Action following the Request. However, those claims were not mentioned in the Official Action. Claims 47-50, 52 and 53 remain pending and therefore the next Official Action, if any, cannot properly be made Final.

Claims 1, 2 and 14-23 are rejected based on the belief that they fail to comply with the enablement. Specifically, the Official Action states that "the specification discloses the insulating bridge 13… for connecting antenna ends to connecting pads but fail to disclose whether the antenna ends and the pads [sic] to be electrically connected." This is not so.

The fourth paragraph on page six of the specification states that the "insulating bridge 13 is produced by covering the turns of antenna 11 with an insulating layer 14 in a zone Z, then by depositing a conductive element 15 on this insulating layer 14, the conductive element 15 allow[s] the end of one turn… to be connected to one of the connection pads 12 of the antenna." Applicants respectfully submit that it was notoriously well-known to an ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of the invention that conductors are capable of conducting electricity. It would have

been quite clear to an ordinarily skilled artisan that, in the disclosed device, the connection between an antenna end and a pad by the conductive element 15 of the insulating bridge 13 is an electrical connection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,920,290, hereinafter McDonough.

The Official Action evidently takes the position that McDonough discloses a "bridge 22" which electrically connects at least one of the ends of an antenna to a respective one of a connection pad. However, element 22 in McDonough is an adhesive layer, as described in lines 22-23 of column 5 of McDonough. It is quite clear that this adhesive layer 22 does not provide an electrical connection.

Accordingly, McDonough does not disclose a method for manufacturing smart cards, each having an antenna with ends or connection pads for connection to an electronic module, including producing, on a support sheet, the antenna with at least two turns and a pair of connection pads that are both disposed on the support sheet on a common side of said antenna turns, and electrically connecting at least one of the ends of the antenna to a respective one of said connection pads by means of a bridge disposed on a surface of said turns that is away from said support sheet, as recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claim 1 is also rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,598,032, hereinafter Fidalgo, in view of McDonough.

The Official Action correctly notes that Fidalgo does not disclose a bridge which electrically connects at least one of the ends of an antenna to a respective one

of a connection pad. The Official Action goes on to take the position that it would have been obvious to an ordinarily skilled artisan to employ McDonough's adhesive layer 22 in Fidalgo's device, and that this modification cures the above-noted deficiency in Fidalgo. This is not so.

As discussed above, it is quite clear that McDonough's adhesive layer 22 does not provide an electrical connection. Thus, even if it would have been obvious to have employed McDonough's adhesive layer 22 in Fidalgo's device, such a modification would not have resulted a method for manufacturing smart cards, each having an antenna with ends or connection pads for connection to an electronic module, including producing, on a support sheet, the antenna with at least two turns and a pair of connection pads that are both disposed on the support sheet on a common side of said antenna turns, and electrically connecting at least one of the ends of the antenna to a respective one of said connection pads by means of a bridge disposed on a surface of said turns that is away from said support sheet, as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the disclosures in McDonough and Fidalgo, and withdrawal of the art rejections of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The methods recited in new independent Claims 54-56 are also allowable over the disclosures in McDonough and Fidalgo. For example, new Claim 54 recites a method for manufacturing a sheet assembly wherein a conductive segment crosses over at least one turn of the at least two turns without creating a short circuit, new Claim 55 recites a method for manufacturing a sheet support wherein a conductive segment crosses over at least one turn of the at least two turns without creating a short circuit, and new Claim 56 recites a method for making a sheet

assembly including producing, on a support sheet, at least two turns of the antenna and a conductive element electrically insulated from the turns and crossing over or under at least one turn of the at least two turns.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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